



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 21ST THEATER SUPPORT COMMAND
UNIT 23203
APO AE 09263-3203

AERLO-D

4 March 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 21st Theater Support Command Policy Letter 25, In Transit-Visibility Policy.

1. References.

- a. EUCOM Directive 66-2, Theater Asset Visibility Policy, Jan 02.
- b. Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Radio Frequency Identification Policy (RFID), 2 Oct 03.
- c. USAREUR Regulation 525-1, Deployment Operations "Draft", Sep 02.

2. Purpose. This memorandum establishes the guidelines, procedures, and policy for the use of Automatic Identification Technology (AIT) to achieve In Transit-Visibility (ITV) of supplies and equipment as they enter into the transportation pipeline until final destination.

3. Background. Battlefield decisions are influenced by the war fighting commander's situational awareness of supplies and equipment destined to support forces in combat. This situational awareness is gained via systems and processes that result in Total Asset Visibility (TAV). In-Transit-Visibility, a major component of TAV includes the use of AIT. Total Asset Visibility is in turn a major component of achieving a Logistics Common Operating Picture (LCOP). A reliable LCOP gives the battlefield commander the tools required to make critical decisions during combat and noncombat operations.

4. Guidance. The 21st Theater Support Command (TSC) will exploit and implement the latest in AIT to facilitate accurate ITV. The 21st TSC will execute the required ITV tasks to ensure battlefield commanders gain the logistical situational awareness required for timely decisions. This command will follow all guidance and policy established by OSD, European Command and United States Army Europe. Each Brigade Level Command has a significant role in achieving the 21st TSC Goal in AIT. The 21st TSC staff proponent for AIT is the Distribution Management Center (DMC).

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5. Requirements for Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID). The 21st TSC will continue to use RFID and will ensure this use is in compliance with OSD policy. Current OSD guidance breaks cargo into four categories as follows:

- a. Sustainment
- b. Unit Movement Equipment and Cargo
- c. Ammunition
- d. Preposition material and Supplies.

6. Cargo falling into these four categories will be identified with RFID and Military Shipping Labels (MSL) applied to all containers, 463 L pallets, and rolling stock (tracks, High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles, Heavy Equipment Mobility Tactical Truck, 5-ton, etc). This cargo must have active data rich RFID tags written with content level detail (nomenclature, stock number, Transportation Control Number, Department of Defense Activity Address Code, (DODAAC) Department of Defense Identification Code (DODIC), etc). The RFID will be applied at the point of origin by all activities preparing the cargo for movement. Containers and pallets reconfigured during transit must have RFID tags updated to accurately reflect new contents by the organization making the change.

7. Retrograde of RFID Tags. RFID Tags removed from containers, pallets and equipment must have their batteries turned around to shut off the power. Excess RFID Tags not in use will be shipped back to the 21st TSC, Theater Distribution Center, Building 3040, APO AE 09227, DODACC: W803RA.

8. Requirements for Satellite Technology.

a. Background. Installation of satellite tracking devices onto cargo trains, cargo trucks and tactical supply vehicles is instrumental in providing real time situational awareness of these critical supply modes of transport. The current satellite tracking systems in use within the 21st TSC are the Defense Transportation Reporting and Communication System (DTRACS), Movement Tracking System (MTS), and the Vistar cargo tracking devices.

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b. Responsibilities. Brigade Commanders will ensure their command and control vehicles at a minimum, are outfitted with either DTRACs or MTS. Priority of fielding will go to vehicles destined for missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The 21st TSC Staff proponents for MTS and DTRACs are G4 and DMC. Vistar devices will be attached to all trains and barges carrying Army cargo. Military and commercial truck movements carrying high priority cargo (AA&E, classified cargo) must have DTRACs/MTS or a Vistar installed. The Rhine River Detachment, Military Traffic Management Command will instrument barges with a Vistar system. The 1st Transportation Movement Control Agency will instrument Vistars on all train and truck missions.

9. Vision. The 21st TSC is an organization providing force projection support and expeditionary logistics to Army, Joint, Combined and Multi-National forces in support of the USAREUR and Combatant Commanders. Therefore, it is imperative that the 21st TSC expend the energy and resources required to give commanders in combat the logistical situational awareness they need to make the right decisions. This command is dedicated to that goal.

10. The point of contact for this memorandum is COL Lerums, 484-7475.

11. FIRST IN SUPPORT!



BENNIE E. WILLIAMS
Major General, USA
Commanding

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